THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Discussions have been held between NTPC Limited and Coal India Limited (CIL) regarding formation of Joint Venture for undertaking mining operations of Brahmini and Chichro Patsimal coal blocks. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between NTPC Limited and CIL for formation of Joint Venture Company (s) with 50:50 equity participation in Coal Mining/ Power Generation business, is expected to be signed shortly. MoU has also a provision to work out a plan for setting up joint integrated power plants. Necessary action for identification of such project shall be taken up by a "Joint Business Development Group" to be constituted for this purpose. The capacity and location of the plant shall be decided after techno-economic and feasibility studies.

Investments in RGPL

†2502. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of the total construction cost of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Limited is debt amount;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the total amount of debt;

(c) the amount provided by the domestic and foreign institutions separately out of this amount; and

(d) the amount to be paid as interest annually by the power project and for how many years it will have to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The provisional cost of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) is Rs. 10303 crores consisting of Rs. 1,765 crores (17.13%) as equity and Rs.8,538 crores (82.87%) as debt.

(c) The entire amount of debt of Rs.8.538 crores is provided by the Indian financial institutions.

(d) The period of loans range from 12 years to 20 years in case of various lenders. The interest rate also ranges from 8.5% per annum for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

debts transferred to RGPPL and for the loan taken for revival works (from Power Finance Corporation) the rate is likely to be in excess of 10% per annum. The annual outgo of interest will depend upon the date of commercial operation of Power Blocks, loan drawn etc. As such, the annual interest outgo can only be determined after above variables are firmed up.

Increase in plant load factor of power plants

†2503. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to stater

(a) whether Government have found out possibilities of increasing production of power by increasing plant load factor of power generation projects in the country;

(b) if so, number of such projects where such plant load factor can be increased as they are generating less power than their installed plant load factor; and

(c) the assessment of additional power produced after increasing plant load factor of such projects as per fixed norms?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) An Action Plan has been drawn to improve the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations in the country which are running at low PLF, to the level of National Average under "Partnership in Excellence" (PIE) Programme. Under this programme 26 low performing thermal Stations (having PLF below 60%) have been identified to improve their performance through improved Operation & Maintenance (O&M) practices, comprehensive overhauling etc. Out of these 26 Thermal Stations, revival of 4 Thermal Stations were not found economically viable.

(c) The anticipated benefits after completion of "PIE" programme may be of the order of 12000 MU/annum.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.